



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF ELECTIONS**

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SCOTT T. NAGO
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER

**TESTIMONY OF THE
CHIEF ELECTION OFFICER, OFFICE OF ELECTIONS
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16**

**REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU TO ESTABLISH A
TASK FORCE TO REVIEW HAWAII'S CURRENT VOTER EDUCATION
SYSTEM AND PROPOSE IMPROVEMENTS**

March 19, 2019

Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Resolution No. 16. The purpose of this resolution is to request the Legislative Reference Bureau to establish a task force to review Hawaii's current voter education system and propose improvements.

The Office of Elections believes in an informed electorate and promoting elections. Currently, our office implements an outreach program to educate the public about voting services, voting procedures and voting rights. During an election year, in addition to our outreach program, we develop a media campaign which focuses on recruiting election day officials, dates and deadlines, voter registration, and voting instructions. We believe this task force would help us to identify best practices and develop new programs to maximize voter registration and encourage participation in the electoral process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Resolution No. 16.



Hawaii

Holding Power Accountable

Common Cause Hawaii • 307A Kamani St. • Honolulu, HI 96813 • 808.275.6275

To: The Senate Committee on the Judiciary
From: Brodie Lockard, for the Board of Common Cause Hawaii
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 9:00 am

In support of SCR23/SR16

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members—

Common Cause Hawaii supports SCR23/SR16.

Hawaii does not appear to have a voter education system. There's no voter's guide, even online; and no central place to find information on candidates, issues, or ballot measures.

How can the electorate participate intelligently when they have to rely on scattered news pieces online or briefly available printed summaries? No wonder our turnout is abysmal.

What in the democratic process is more important than educating voters? We need to review what little system we have and design one that's reliable, accessible, comprehensive, and nonpartisan.

Please support SCR23-SR16 and help Hawaii vote better.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Brodie Lockard
Board of Common Cause Hawaii